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United States Department of State
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Washington, D. C. 20520

Raw
B. J. G.
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BRIEFING MEMORANDUM

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DECL: OADR

TO: The Acting Secretary

FROM: AF - George E. Moose

SUBJECT: President's Foreign Policy Team Meeting
Friday, August 19, 9:30 AM

I. PURPOSE

- o To discuss developments in Rwanda and Burundi and the U.S. response to the crisis.

II. KEY POINTS

The Safe Zone

- o The French departure could spark a mass exodus of refugees from the safe zone, creating a new humanitarian disaster which would present even greater challenges than Goma.
- o We are pressuring the Rwandan government to allow the French to stay long enough to ensure a smooth transition to UNAMIR. Despite initial flexibility, the government has not conceded. If we can turn the government around, the French have suggested they would stay on.
- o Ambassador Rawson recommends lending a DoD radio transmitter to UNAMIR to allow the UN to broadcast messages countering Hutu extremist propaganda in the zone inciting the flight. We need to push DoD for assistance on this.

UNAMIR

- o The Ghanaian battalion is now fully deployed, and the Ethiopians should be deployed by the weekend. We are airlifting the Ethiopians' equipment, which should be completed by early next week.
- o The Tunisians and the UN are still discussing equipment needs. The Zambians could be on the ground by the end of the month. We need to continue pressing the UN and troop and equipment contributors to expedite UNAMIR deployment.

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Refugee Relief in Zaire

- o Only a small percentage of the refugees have returned from Zaire, and refugee outflows from Rwanda continue. USG volcanologists have been sent to Zaire to assess the probability of an eruption in the area.
- o Security in the camps remains a concern, with much of the former Rwandan army remaining as organized units in Zaire. The Moroccans refused our request to send troops. The French might be persuaded to assist the Zairians on this.
- o We (DoD in particular) need to work with UNHCR and others to achieve a seamless transition from military to civilian relief operations, including leaving behind key equipment.

Encouraging Repatriation/Reconciliation

- o We need to continue pressing the Rwandan government to create conditions that will encourage refugee return, including broadening of the government's political/ethnic base and respecting human rights.
- o The UN plans to send 20 human rights monitors, and the U.S. is close to contributing \$750,000 to this effort. We need to accelerate deployment of monitors and find ways to increase the numbers deployed.

International War Crimes Tribunal

- o The three-member UN Commission of Experts is headed for Rwanda. We are pushing to expedite their work so that the Security Council can move quickly to create a tribunal.
- o We need to resolve the issue of detentions pending creation of the tribunal. DoD objects to giving UNAMIR that mandate. At a minimum, the neighboring countries should be given UN Security Council blessing to detain.

Burundi

- o After initial resistance, DoD will send a team to Bujumbura to examine using the airport to support relief efforts in northern Burundi, southwest Rwanda, and South Kivu in Zaire. Our Ambassador and the UN special rep believe U.S. military use of the airport would have a stabilizing effect.
- o We need to continue sending high level visitors, support the UN Human Rights Center's technical advisory services program for Burundi (we are contributing \$300,000), and push the OAU to make effective use of its military monitors (there are 32 deployed, with an authorized strength of 47). We need to make contingency plans if a crisis occurs.

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Cleared:AF/C:RFendrick
IO/UNP:GStanton
PM/ISP:RWharton
PRM/AAA:MMcKelvey
DRL:JRosenblatt
EUR/WE:JLewis
P:ESwicker
G:AJoyce

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